



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- MISSOURI FIELD OFFICE
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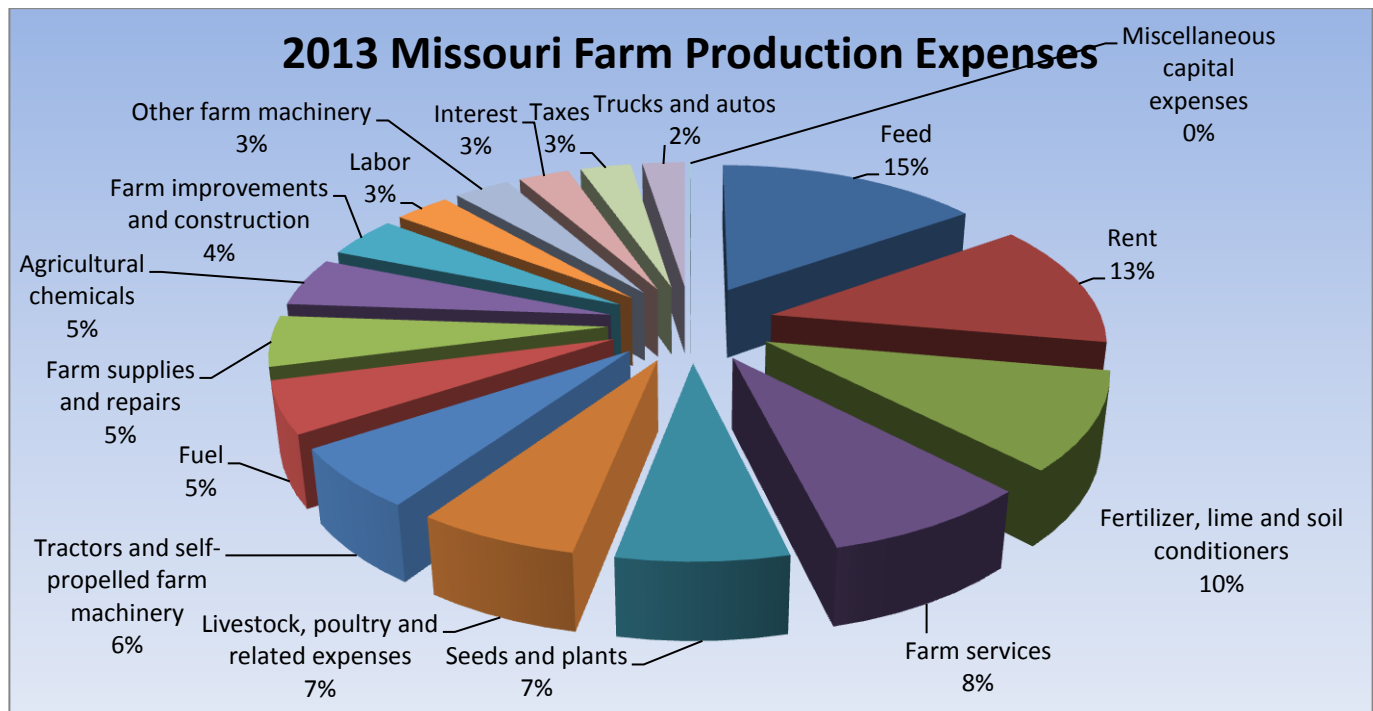
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USDA TO GAUGE FARMLAND OWNERSHIP AND FARM ECONOMICS

Columbia, MO – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin surveying farmland owners to measure financial impacts and challenges of land ownership. Landowners will begin receiving forms for the survey, called Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL), by the end of December. At the same time, NASS will mail forms to a sample of producers that represents all farm types.

"The recent Census of Agriculture counted more than 9.7 million acres of land that were rented or leased in Missouri, but it has been more than a decade since we spoke to landowners themselves," said Bob Garino, NASS' Missouri state statistician. "I hope all who receive TOTAL surveys will respond to help update landownership information. The data will ensure that decisions impacting Missouri farmland are based on accurate information that comes directly from the source."

"On an annual basis, NASS measures farm production expenses with a sample of farmers and ranchers," said Garino. "We also ask the producers a few questions about expenses that are paid by the landowners. But, we don't ask about other important factors like wind rights, mineral rights, and hunting rights. Those items can be very important sources of income for landowners. In addition, we need to gather some demographic information about people that rent land to agricultural producers."



TOTAL is a part of the Census of Agriculture program, which means response to this survey is mandatory. The TOTAL survey program will collect data from both farm operators and landlords who are not farm operators to create a complete picture of farm costs, land ownership, demographics about farm operators and landlords, and improvements made to farmland and buildings, among other characteristics. More than 80,000 farmland owners and producers across the United States will receive TOTAL forms, including more than 2,700 in Missouri.

“This survey is lengthy and we realize some producers and landowners may have questions or need clarification,” explained Garino. “In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those producers and landowners who have not yet responded to answer any questions they may have and help them fill out their questionnaires.”

In addition to accurate data, NASS is strongly committed to confidentiality. Information provided by respondents is confidential by law. The agency safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

NASS will publish results of the TOTAL survey in its Quick Stats database in August 2015. Quick Stats is available online at quickstats.nass.usda.gov. NASS will also publish the economic data gathered in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report on August 4, 2015. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

The table below shows some results from recent surveys of Missouri producers.

| Missouri | Farms Reporting | | Average per farm | | Total Expenditures | |
|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (dollars) | (dollars) | (Million dollars) | (Million dollars) |
| Livestock, poultry and related expenses | 25.3 | 31.5 | 7,359 | 6,740 | 730 | 670 |
| Feed | 57.6 | 54.7 | 16,431 | 15,694 | 1,630 | 1,560 |
| Farm services | 94.3 | 93.6 | 8,871 | 8,753 | 880 | 870 |
| Rent | 27.4 | 29.6 | 9,879 | 13,078 | 980 | 1,300 |
| Agricultural chemicals | 34.6 | 37.9 | 4,839 | 5,131 | 480 | 510 |
| Fertilizer, lime and soil conditioners | 52.5 | 54.5 | 10,383 | 10,262 | 1,030 | 1,020 |
| Interest | 33 | 31.9 | 2,923 | 3,018 | 290 | 300 |
| Taxes | 100 | 100 | 4,133 | 3,018 | 410 | 300 |
| Labor | 22.6 | 20.6 | 4,738 | 3,320 | 470 | 330 |
| Fuel | 84.6 | 85.5 | 5,242 | 5,433 | 520 | 540 |
| Farm supplies and repairs | 77.4 | 81.3 | 5,141 | 5,332 | 510 | 530 |
| Farm improvements and construction | 44.2 | 51.5 | 4,335 | 4,326 | 430 | 430 |
| Tractors and self-propelled farm machinery | 10.9 | 13.9 | 5,040 | 6,338 | 500 | 630 |
| Other farm machinery | 14.6 | 17.2 | 2,722 | 3,320 | 270 | 330 |
| Seeds and plants | 39 | 41 | 7,258 | 7,143 | 720 | 710 |
| Trucks and autos | 12.9 | 15.9 | 1,915 | 2,515 | 190 | 250 |
| Miscellaneous capital expenses | 1.1 | 0.7 | 101 | 50 | 10 | 5 |
| Total farm production expenditures | 100 | 100 | 101,310 | 103,471 | 10,050 | 10,285 |

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